

# The Bible is God's Inspired Word

By Tom Hill

**Bible Text:** 2 Timothy 3:16

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The great masses of the world today reject the authority of the Bible. They doubt its inspiration. Many describe it as a stumbling block to life. Others depict it as an obstacle to progress. These brief comments define the common view of the world.

Sadly, these views also describe an ever increasing attitude among Christians. They question the extent of its authority. Many believers no longer use the Bible as the sole rule for life and godliness.

The accepted condition now calls for the Bible plus something else. The Bible, they say, is incomplete and inaccurate. Further, many Christians doubt its application for today.

These troubling questions affect the whole Church of Jesus Christ and every believer. Wrong conclusions about the Scriptures leave us without an objective standard for truth. We are abandoned to flounder by each one's subjective standard.

Let me list for you some specific clues that give rise to this conclusion. The Church today emphasizes science, philosophy, and education at the expense of the Scriptures. Too often, believers rely upon these as valid and truthful and attempt to fit the Bible into their "truths" instead of the reverse.

In addition, Christians believe selective truth. For example, the love of God gets great press, yet the wrath of God goes without notice, relegated only to the God of the Old Testament. The hard sayings of Jesus Christ about discipleship and cross bearing, for example, lie dormant in the face of more popular issues like wealth and self-esteem.

Further, obedience has become a scarce commodity today in the Church. Somehow believers have come to the conclusion that God finds partial obedience acceptable. Those commands that we find pleasing we obey. Others, like giving up all to follow Christ, are relegated to another era.

Yes, this small bit of evidence shows that the Church today rejects the authority of the Bible for daily life and practice. Oh, yes, our Church constitutions declare its role, and we piously pound our Bibles in support of its supremacy.

Yet our actions speak so loudly that they drown out what we say. The absolute authority of the Bible for life and practice has fallen on hard times, sadly, even in the Church of Jesus Christ.

This developed, in part, because believers reject the Biblical truth of the divine inspiration of the Scriptures. This condition has come in some instances by choice. The denial and concealment of this great truth has weakened its effectiveness. In other cases, its neglect has arisen by ignorance.

Regardless of its origin, it effectively denies the Biblical evidence of the Scriptures' divine origin. Instead, believers conform their attitudes, opinions, beliefs, and conduct to those of the world, and not to the Scriptures.

Consequently, the Church suffers. Individually, it causes Christians to center their Christianity around self and personal gratification. The rejection deifies mankind and makes mankind the authority of right and wrong.

Reason becomes the standard. Obedience to spiritual duty dies. Personal holiness disappears.

This sorry condition brings sin against God, too. It abases the truth of God about His word. It rejects His self-revelation. It dethrones His sovereignty and degrades His character and nature. It minimizes the work of Jesus Christ on the cross and diminishes His honor. It grieves the Holy Spirit and quenches His work in the Church.

I believe that the Church of Jesus Christ and believers today face a crossroads. We may continue down the road of neglect and rejection of the authority of God's word. Such a conclusion will only hasten the present decline of the Church. Or we will immediately take steps to repent from our sin and seek God's face again.

For the Church/Christians to once again experience the glorious presence of God and the outpouring of the Holy Spirit requires the work and ministry of the Holy Spirit in our lives. We need His work to reveal to us the truth concerning the divine inspiration of the Bible.

Only He can bring the Church of Jesus Christ and individual believers to repentance for the sins of unbelief and disobedience. His work in these spheres are mandatory for the spiritual reformation and revival that we so desperately need.

### **Reality of inspiration**

To encourage you to faith and obedience to this truth, I call your attention to Paul's counsel to his protégé, Timothy. Timothy faced perilous times as we do today. He even endured some personal persecution. To bolster Timothy, Paul reminded him to remain firm in his belief in the Scriptures because of their divine inspiration.

Specifically, the Holy Spirit through Paul stated it in this fashion in 2 Timothy 3:16:

"All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:"

In effect, the passage declares not only the divine inspiration of the Bible but also its value and effect in life. Space does not permit a full examination of the text, so I will concentrate upon only one aspect. Without question, Paul affirms with certainty the divine inspiration of the Scriptures.

Note that it says, "All Scripture..." In essence, the phrase leaves out nothing. It includes each separate unit of the Bible. It incorporates the matter and the words, too. It extends throughout the whole of it. The proclamation of Paul entails the totality of the Bible, thoroughly and completely.

This statement flies in the face of those who would describe the Bible as merely containing God's word. In actuality it goes far beyond that. It is the word of God. Thus, every word comes from God and demands our faith and obedience, not just some of it that appeals to us.

### **Source of inspiration**

In addition, Paul reminds his beloved friend of the source of Biblical inspiration. He says that it is "...given by inspiration of God." Negatively, then, it is not self-generated. Thus, it came to the authors:

without human invention;  
without human interpretation;  
without human inclination;  
without human imagination;  
without human explanation;  
without human determination.

Instead, Scripture came into the authors as divinely breathed by God. He inspired it. He originated it. The Holy Spirit impelled the Biblical writers to record God's revelation to mankind.

It came from God to humanity to reveal Himself to us and to record His demands for our faith and obedience to Him. The end result will bring honor, glory, and praise to Him, Who alone deserves it.

### **Confirmation of inspiration**

Abundant evidence confirms the reality of the divine inspiration of the Bible. I will mention just a few of them. In like manner to Paul, the Apostle Peter establishes the truth of divine inspiration. For he says in 2 Peter 1:21:

"For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost."

In numerous instances, the writers of the Bible affirmed that their messages came not from themselves but from God. I give you a sample of them.

1 Chronicles 28:19: "All this, said David, the LORD made me understand in writing by his hand upon me, even all the works of this pattern."

Acts 1:16: "Men and brethren, this scripture must needs have been fulfilled, which the Holy Ghost by the mouth of David spake..."

1 John 1:3-4: "That which we have seen and heard declare we unto you, that ye also may have fellowship with us: and truly our fellowship is with the Father, and with his Son Jesus Christ. {4} And these things write we unto you, that your joy may be full."

These writers took no credit for their messages. They readily declared the divine source of it all.

Jesus Himself frequently used the Bible to answer the questions of His disciples and His enemies. For instance, He answered the doubts and questions of the two men on the Road to Emmaus in this fashion in Luke 24:27:

"And beginning at Moses and all the prophets, he expounded unto them in all the scriptures the things concerning himself."

Again, Jesus upheld the Scriptures in His teachings. Note Matthew 5:17:

"Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfil."

One last example shows how Jesus used the Bible to answer the Scribes and Pharisees' questions. See His response in Matthew 15:4:

"For God commanded, saying, Honour thy father and mother: and, He that curseth father or mother, let him die the death."

Jesus had great respect for the Scriptures and considered them divine in source and authoritative for life and practice. We can conclude no less than He did. The Bible is divinely inspired, inerrant, and the sole rule for life and godliness.

What does the Holy Spirit want these truths to accomplish in your life today? He wants to clarify for you the truth regarding the divine inspiration of the Bible. Evidence confirms it.

Thus, Christians and all mankind have an obligation to believe it and obey it. I pray that He has opened your eyes to see the truth and confirmed it in your heart.

In addition, the Holy Spirit wants these truths to convict you of sin. Where has He identified today your failure to apply these truths in your life?

- Do you believe these truths? Or do you doubt and deny them?
- Do you emphasize science, philosophy, and education at the expense of the Bible?
- Do you depict it as a stumbling block, an obstacle to progress?
- Do you use it as your sole rule for life and godliness?
- Do you question its relevance for today?

What conclusions about your conduct has the Holy Spirit revealed to you? Has He found you faithful or doubting? Innocent or guilty?

Further, the Holy Spirit wants to correct you from sin. These truths show false doctrine to avoid. For instance, they contradict the fallacies of the world concerning the Bible and its authority in life. In addition, they disprove the common errors which result from these fallacies.

These truths also identify sinful practices to shun. Their adoption will center our Christianity, not on self, but on Christ. We will not deify mankind, but God. The Bible becomes the authority for right and wrong, not mankind and his reason. Then, it will drive believers to faith, obedience, and personal holiness.

Finally, the Holy Spirit wants to conform you to the truth. He desires to mold your thoughts, opinions, beliefs, and conduct to God's word. He will confirm to you the truth concerning the divine inspiration of the Bible and its impact upon your life.

How will you, then, respond to these truths? You can reject them by taking refuge in lies that keep you from faith and obedience. To defend your actions or excuse them do not resolve the issues. Nor can you blame others. To delay is to disobey and doubt. Regardless of your reason, you reject them.

If you choose to reject them, realize what will happen if you refuse to believe and obey. You stand accountable to God for your sin. You will suffer the consequences of your doubt and disobedience. You will experience God's judgment for your sin. Ultimately, God will remove His fellowship from you.

God calls you, instead, to repentance. His Spirit brings conviction to change your conduct. He brings a sense of sin to lead you to sorrow, shame, and confession. God has made provision for you in Christ, Who gives forgiveness and cleansing from sin to those who come to Him in faith.

I pray that you will experience the work and ministry of the Holy Spirit in your life today. I pray that He will open your eyes to see your true condition before God. I pray that He will bring you to repent of your sin and to find relief through the blood of Jesus Christ. May the Holy Spirit come to you in grace and bring a spiritual transformation in your life today.